

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving mailing information from a mailer, the mailing information

comprising shipment information relating to a shipment and a

mailing code associated with a mailing, the shipment information

comprising a shipment identifier;

receiving [a] the shipment at an induction facility, wherein the shipment

comprises an encoded shipment identifier and a mailing associated

with the mailing code;

scanning at least one of the encoded shipment identifier or the mailing

code into a scanned code;

matching the scanned code to the shipment identifier;

notifying the mailer of the induction of the shipment;

scanning at least one of the encoded shipment identifier or the mailing

code at a delivery facility; and

notifying the mailer of the delivery of the shipment.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further

comprising:

estimating a cost to deliver [of] the mailing based on the mailing

information; and

- providing the estimated cost of the mailing to the mailer.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising checking an account balance of the mailer to verify available funds for payment of the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing.
 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
receiving confirmation [of] that the [incoming] shipment is incoming from
the mailer; and
debiting a trust account of the mailer with the estimated cost to deliver [of]
the mailing.
 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
during transportation of the shipment from the induction facility to the
delivery facility, scanning the encoded shipment identifier as in-
process scan data.
 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
providing the in-process scan data to the mailer.
 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing the mailing information to estimate future
system loads.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein
utilizing the mailing information to estimate future system
loads further comprises:
receiving an induction date in the mailing information, the induction date
estimating the date upon which the mailing will be delivered to the
induction facility; and
estimating future system loads based on the induction date.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein
estimating future system loads further comprises:
receiving a count value representing the number of mailpieces in the
mailing; and
estimating future system loads based on the induction date and the count
value.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further
comprising providing an estimate of an in-home delivery date
for the mailing.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of planning the future load of a mailing system, comprising:
receiving mailing information from a mailer, the mailing information comprising shipment information having a shipment identifier, an estimated induction date, and a count value representing the number of mailpieces in the shipment; and
estimating system load on a mail system based on the estimated induction date and the count value.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the shipment information comprises an induction location and wherein estimating system load further comprises estimating system load on a mail system based on the induction location.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the shipment information comprises a delivery location and wherein estimating system load further comprises estimating system load on a mail system based on the delivery location.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for tracking a mailing, the system comprising:
a memory; and
a processor coupled to the memory for:
receiving mailing information from a mailer, the mailing information comprising shipment information relating to a shipment and a mailing code associated with a mailing, the shipment information comprising a shipment identifier;
receiving [a] the shipment at an induction facility, wherein the shipment comprises an encoded shipment identifier and a mailing associated with the mailing code;
scanning at least one of the encoded shipment identifier or the mailing code into a scanned code;
matching the scanned code to the shipment identifier;
notifying the mailer of the induction of the shipment;
scanning at least one of the encoded shipment identifier or the mailing code at a delivery facility; and
notifying the mailer of the delivery of the shipment.
15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor provides the function of:
estimating a cost of the mailing based on the mailing information; and
providing the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing to the mailer.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor provides the function of checking an account balance of a trust account of the mailer to verify available funds for payment of the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing.
17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the processor provides the functions of:
receiving confirmation [of] that the [incoming] shipment is incoming from the mailer; and
debiting an account of the mailer with the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor provides the functions of:
during transportation of the shipment from the induction facility to the delivery facility, receiving a scan of the encoded shipment identifier as in-process scan data.
19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the processor provides the functions of:
providing the in-process scan data to the mailer.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor provides the function of utilizing the mailing information to estimate future system loads.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the processor provides the function of:

receiving an induction date in the mailing information, the induction date

estimating the date upon which the mailing will be delivered to the

induction facility; and

estimating future system loads based on the induction date.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the processor provides the function of:

receiving a number of pieces of mail in the mailing information; and

estimate future system loads based on the induction date and the number

of pieces of mail in the mailing information.
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor provides the function of providing an estimate of

an in-home delivery date for the mailing.

24. (Previously Presented) A system for planning the future load of a mailing system, the system comprising:
a memory; and
a processor coupled to the memory for:
receiving mailing information from a mailer, the mailing information comprising shipment information having a shipment identifier, an estimated induction date, and a number of mail pieces in the shipment; and
estimating system load on a mail system based on the estimated induction date and the number of mail pieces in the shipment.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the processor provides the function of estimating system load using an induction location provided in the shipment information.
26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the processor provides the function of estimating system load based on a delivery location provided within the shipment information.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium on which is stored a set of instructions for providing tracking of mailings, which when executed perform stages comprising:
- receiving mailing information from a mailer, the mailing information comprising shipment information relating to a shipment and a mailing code associated with a mailing, the shipment information comprising a shipment identifier;
 - receiving [a] the shipment at an induction facility, wherein the shipment comprises an encoded shipment identifier and a mailing associated with the mailing code;
 - scanning at least one of the encoded shipment identifier or the mailing code into a scanned code;
 - matching the scanned code to the shipment identifier;
 - notifying the mailer of the induction of the shipment;
 - scanning at least one of the encoded shipment identifier or the mailing code at a delivery facility; and
 - notifying the mailer of the delivery of the shipment.
28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
- estimating a cost of the mailing based on the mailing information; and
 - providing the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing to the mailer.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
checking an account balance of the mailer to verify available funds for payment of the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing.
30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
receiving confirmation [of] that the [incoming] shipment is incoming from
the mailer; and
debiting the mailer with the estimated cost to deliver [of] the mailing.
31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
during transportation of the shipment from the induction facility to the
delivery facility, scanning the encoded shipment identifier as in-process scan data.
32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
providing the in-process scan data to the mailer.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
utilizing the mailing information to estimate future system loads.
34. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
receiving an induction date in the mailing information, the induction date
estimating the date upon which the mailing will be delivered to the
induction facility; and
estimating future system loads based on the induction date.
35. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:
receiving a count value representing the number of mailpieces in the
mailing; and
estimating future system loads based on the induction date and the count
value.
36. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising instructions, which when executed perform stages comprising:

providing an estimate of an in-home delivery date for the
mailing.